

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 4, 2010 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 20100928). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-24 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 1, 3, 4, 10, and 14-24 are being amended to improve form. For example, the amendments to claims 1, 3, 4, and 10 are being made to correct minor grammatical errors, and the amendments to claims 14-24 are being made to better correspond with the limitations recited in claims 1-13. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-13 stand as allowed and stated that claims 22-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims from which they respectively depend.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Holsclaw (U.S. Patent No. 6,482,370). The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Holsclaw in view of Moore (U.S. Patent No. 3,014,620). The Examiner rejected claims 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Holsclaw in view of Yamada (U.S. Patent No. 5,151,731). Applicants have reviewed the above-noted rejections, and hereby respectfully traverse.

As outlined above, claims 1-24 remain of record. Independent claim 14 is being amended herein to require all of the limitations of independent claim 1 as presented in the Response filed on June 1, 2010, which the Examiner has allowed over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is patentable over the prior art for reasons similar to the reasons why claim 1 is patentable over the prior art and, therefore, that

claim 14 is now in condition for allowance. Moreover, because claims 15-24 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 14, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-24 are also now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 14-24 and submit that the present invention as claimed is now in condition for allowance.

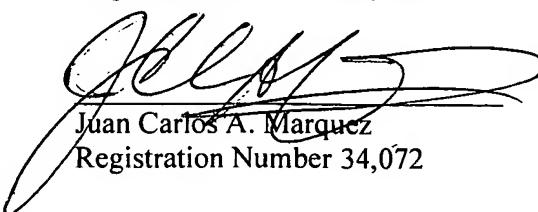
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient to establish that the present invention as now claimed would have neither been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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